Kudamimi no Neko

by Nakayama Miyuki

Chapter 2

CAT SCANS

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PAGE 2: I'VE MADE A FRIEND
CHIRP
I SLEPT WELL.
HMM...
My life here officially starts today... huh?
This is the second day since arriving at this clinic. Many things happened yesterday, but...
I NEED TO DO MY BEST TO ACHIEVE MY GOALS.
I'LL BECOME A PROPER MIKO AND FIND A WAY TO EXORCISE THE KUDA-FOX.
AND...
I WANT A FRIEND.
OKAY!

EH?
ME?
YOU ARE BOTH APPRENTICES, BUT MIYA-CHAN IS THE SENPAI HERE.
THAT'S RIGHT. TO BE NENEKO-CHAN'S MENTOR.
I THINK IT'S BEST IF YOU TEACH HER WHILE ON A JOB TOGETHER.
SFX: CREAK

NO!
I HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH THAT.
I SEE. I'M GLAD TO HEAR THAT.
DOES IT INCONVENIENCE YOU IN ANY WAY?
THEN, I'LL ASK YOU TO TAKE CARE OF THIS RIGHT AWAY.
I WAS ASKED TO EXORCISE IT, BUT I HAVE ANOTHER APPOINTMENT TODAY
FOR NOW, I WANT YOU TO PLACE IT IN THE SPIRIT HOLDING ROOM.
THE SPIRIT HOLDING ROOM?
WHAT'S IN IT?
A KNIFE POSSESSED BY AN EVIL SPIRIT.

Fu fu
It looks like it's a wakizashi owned by someone long ago who'd kill a passerby to test one's blade. Unpleasant, isn't it?
Well, that's how it is, so...

It is a room that holds the things needed for ceremonies.
It'll be fine. The room is sealed with a talisman just like this one here, so the spirits can't come out.
They don't even have the power to break the talisman.

Miya-chan, show her the way.
Yes.

SFX TENSE
Pl-
Please look after me!

Then,
We'll show you to the spirit holding room now.
Please ask if there is anything you don't understand
Y-yes!

Déjà vu.
I'M REALLY SORRY!
MIYA-SAMA...
SFX: DEPRESSED
MIYA-SAMA!?
Again?
SFX: TURN AWAY
I'M NOT PUSHING MYSELF...
WE'RE BOTH MIKO, SO I WANT TO GET ALONG WITH HER IF POSSIBLE. BESIDES .
IT ISN'T LIKE YOU HAVE TO PARTICULARLY PUSH YOURSELF TO GET ALONG WITH HER, RIGHT?
I...
WANT A FRIEND.
SHE WOULDN'T TALK TO ME YESTERDAY EITHER.
IT SEEMS SHE DISLIKES ME AFTER ALL.

I CAN'T GO ROUND MAKING SUCH A DARK AND GLOOMY FACE!
DO IMAGE TRAINING AND MOVE FORWARD CHEERFULLY!
I'M GOING A LITTLE TOO FAST HERE.
MORE SLOWLY AND NATURALLY ..
LIKE AIR... AIR...
THAT'S WHY!
OKAY!
HERE WE ARE!
THIS IS THE SPIRIT HOLDING...
WHAT HAPPENED?
AIR...
I'M A BEING OF AIR
PAY NO HEED.
SFX: GLOOMY

THIS IS THE SPIRIT HOLDING ROOM.
SFX: SHUDDER
IT'S SOMEWHAT COLD HERE...
AND MY BODY IS ALL TINGLY.
TH-THE ATMOSPHERE HERE SURE IS DIFFERENT FROM THE OUTSIDE.
.....
SFX: CREAK
PLEASE ENTER.

A person with spiritual power feels uneasy in this room, don't they?
.....
Feeling cold and tingly is also because of that?
Yes, a miko would feel that even more easily.
Neneko-sama feels it easily.
Why did you repeat that?
I see.
Sounoichi-san is amazing.
No, so...
Shelf no, so.
Even though she is an apprentice like me, she stands confidently in here.

I too...
SFX: CLENCH
SFX: EXTEND
I need to gain more experience and become an upstanding miko like Sounoichi-san.
If I remain weak, I won't be taken seriously.
SFX: SILENCE
AH! THAT'S RIGHT.
HMM...
I ALSO WANT TO HELP OUT!
D-DON'T BE DISHEARTENED!
AH. ERR...
AH! THEN, AT LEAST...

SFX: PULL AWAY
SFX: TOUCH
LET ME HOLD THE BO...
!
SFX: CRASH

SFX: CLINK
SFX: KNEEL
OH NO!
SFX: HOLD
EH?
Aine
AH... HM... I'M SORRY. I...
MIYA-SAMA!
SFX: MUTTER
SFX: STAND

IT'S FINE.
JUST GET OUT.
SFX: STEPS
I DON'T THINK NENEKO-SAMA IS IN THE WRONG.
IT SEEMS.. I WAS BEING TOO PUSHY.
I HAVEN'T HAD TO DEAL WITH OTHER PEOPLE FOR SO LONG THAT I DIDN'T KNOW HOW FAR IS TOO FAR.
It's been too long
NENEKO-SAMA, ARE YOU OKAY?
HM?
JUST MESSED UP A LITTLE, I GUESS.
THE DIRECTOR TOLD ME IT'D BE OKAY, BUT THAT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE THE CASE.
HMM, SINCE I LOOK LIKE THIS, I SHOULD THINK A LITTLE MORE BEFORE ACTING.

SFX: STROKE
なで
なで なで…
SFX: PAT
ポン
!
ギュッ
SFX: TOUCH
SFX: HOLD
SHICHIKAGE...
I...

HUH?
SINCE I HAVE THESE EARS...
COULD IT BE THAT
I STINK LIKE AN ANIMAL!?
SFX: SNIFF
SFX: SUDDENLY
MAYBE MY BODY HAS ALSO CHANGED...
AND THEY DON'T LIKE ME EVEN MORE BECAUSE OF THAT.
SFX: PULL
SFX: ELUDE
NENEKO-SAMA...
WAH!
.....
?
SHICHIKAGE?

SMELLS LIKE MILK.
MILK... AH!
I ATE MILK PUDDING THIS MORNING!
THAT WAS SO DELICIOUS. I WANT TO EAT IT AGAIN.
I RECOMMEND IT, SO SHICHIKAGE SHOULD EAT IT NEXT...
はぁ
Ah...

Let Ojii-san join in too ♥
ERO-SMELL...
SFX: PANTING
.....
SFX: BU BUM
THAT'S NOT IT! WAIT, WAIT! I HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL YOU!
SFX: DASH
AH! SO CRUEL!!
SFX: STOP
SFX: LAND
IS EVERYONE ELSE GOING?
MIKO WISE, JUST NENEKO-CHAN AND MIYA-CHAN JUST THE TWO OF YOU WILL BE HERE.
THE DIRECTOR AND UNCLE NEED TO LEAVE THE CLINIC FOR BUSINESS, SO WE'D LIKE YOU TO HOUSE-SIT WHILE WE ARE GONE.
WE'LL BE BACK IN THE EVENING, SO PLEASE LOOK AFTER THE CLINIC 'TIL THEN

SFX TWITCH

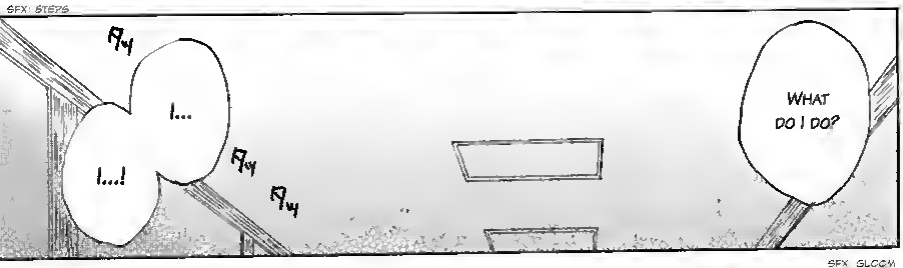
Welcome party
We said we'll hold a welcome party for you guys tonight, so look forward to it, okay?
Geez... Isn't Shichikage-kun a bit cold? Oji-san will cry, you know? Even if it's unbecoming of my age...
Go ahead.
What should I have?
Neneko-chan, what do you want to eat? Oji-san will buy you anything.
I'll buy you some souvenirs.
Please don't try and feed me like an animal!
Haa!

If you get out after the bath you'll get a cold, you know
But Shichikage, you didn't need to wait for me to come out
That was the first time I went into an open-air hot spring.
That felt good.
How did it come to that?
Then, let's go into together next time?
Ah.
Sounoichi-san.

I'M SORRY ABOUT EARLIER.
H-HMM...
DID ANYTHING HAPPEN AFTER...
SFX: THREATENING

SFX: LAND
SFX: LOOK
SFX: SLAP

SFX: TAKE OFF


SFX: STEPS
I...
I...!
WHAT DO I DO?

SFX: GLOOM
どよ...
FOR HER TO HATE ME SO MUCH THAT SHE WANTS TO KILL ME.
THAT'S NOT THE CASE, RIGHT?
THAT SWORD...
IT WAS THE ONE INSIDE THE WOODEN BOX, RIGHT?
NENEKO-SAN! SHICHIKAGE-SAN!
!
HURRY, THIS WAY!

SHE IS BEING POSSESSED BY THE EVIL SPIRIT!?
IT SEEMED TO HAVE USED THE CHANCE WHEN SHE PICKED UP THAT SWORD.
I WOULD LIKE TO DO SOMETHING, BUT...
UNFORTUNATELY, I CAN USE MY POWER WITHOUT MIYA-SAMA.
I CAN STOP HER FOR A LITTLE BIT AT BEST...
NENEKO-SAN, WOULD YOU PLEASE SAVE MIYA-SAMA?
ME!?

I'M DEEPLY AWARE OF THE FACT THAT I'M IN NO POSITION TO ASK YOU FOR ANYTHING.
IF I CONSIDER HOW MANY TIMES MIYA-SAMA HAS BEEN RUDE TO YOU
HOWEVER, THERE IS NO ONE ELSE BUT YOU RIGHT NOW.
SO, PLEASE.
I DON'T WANT TO LOSE MIYA-SAMA.
UWAH!
SFX: FALL
SFX: TENSE
A SHIKIGAMI'S LIFE IS TIED TO A MIKO'S POWER,
SO IF THE MIKO LOST HER POWER, THE SHIKIGAMI WILL ALSO DISAPPEAR.
DISAPPEAR?
YOU'LL DISAPPEAR AT THIS RATE.
SHINGETSU-SAN!? ARE YOU OKAY!?
I'VE LOST MY STRENGTH...

SOUNOICHI-SAN...
WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO SOUNOICHI-SAN IF SHE LOST HER POWER!?
SHE'LL STAY POSSESSED LIKE THAT AND THAT'S THE END FOR HER.
IF WE CALL THE DIRECTOR, THINGS WILL WORK OUT.
BUT WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH TIME AT ALL.
IT'S MY FAULT.
I DID SOMETHING UNNECESSARY AT THAT TIME.
AT THIS RATE, MIYA-SAMA AND I WILL...
GENOJI
.....
SHICHIKAGE.

LEND ME YOUR POWER.
I... I WANT TO HELP SOUNOICHI-SAN.
SFX: RIP
SOUNOICHI-SAN!

SFX: DASH
I WANT TO SAVE HER.
SINCE I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN DO IT, EVEN IF I HAVE TO RESORT TO BRUTE FORCE...
SFX: WOBBLE
WE CAN STILL MAKE IT IF I CAN SEPARATE THAT SWORD FROM SOUNOICHI-SAN NOW
JUST A MOMENT IS FINE. IF I CREATE A CHANCE...
SFX: DASH

SFX GRAB
OKAY!
I CAUGHT...
HAA!!
SFX ANGRY
That's dangerous!
KYAAAAH!
Eek!

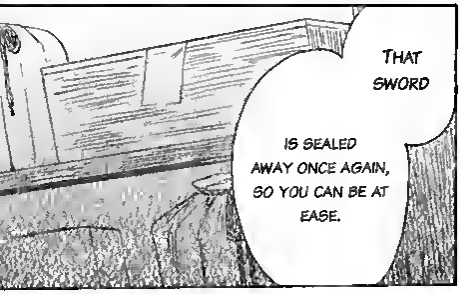
NO...
I WON'T LET GO! I WON'T LET GO!
SFX: PAN
SFX: SLICE
IT'S...
IT'S FINE! I'M HERE TO HELP YOU!
I...
THERE ARE MANY THINGS I WANT SOUNOICHI-SAN TO TEACH ME,
SO LET'S DO OUR BEST TOGETHER.

DON'T LET IT POSSESS YOU! I'LL DEFINITELY SAVE YOU!
I WANT TO BE YOUR FRIEND!
GET ALONG!
Now!
SHICHIKAGE!
BINDING, NENEKO ALLOWS IT!
SFX: RUNNING
PLEASE! SAVE SOUNOICHI-SAN!
HURLING YOURSELF TO STOP HER SURE IS BEING PUSHY.

SFX: SWING
THAT'S JUST LIKE NENEKO-SAMA THOUGH.
SFX: CLANK
SFX: KNOCK OUT

Now!
This is Neneko-chan and Shichikage-kun's welcome party...
Yay!
Cheers!!

YOU AREN'T IN THE MOOD FOR IT?
AH...
THAT'S NOT IT...


THAT SWORD IS SEALED AWAY ONCE AGAIN, SO YOU CAN BE AT EASE.

HERE, LOOK!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT AND ENJOY THE WELCOME PARTY!
EAT AND DRINK WHATEVER YOU LIKE! YOU TWO ARE THE STARS TODAY!

I'M REALLY SORRY THAT THE BOX WAS OPENED.
IF YOU GUYS ARE SAFE, THEN IT'S FINE.
BUT BE CAREFUL WHEN HANDLING THINGS, OKAY?
YES.

MANY THINGS HAPPENED TODAY,
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
BUT I'M GLAD THAT BOTH SOUNOICHI-SAN AND SHINGETSU-SAN ARE SAFE.
This is the first time I had such a grand dinner
WHAT DO YOU WANT? I'LL GET IT FOR YOU.
ERR, THEN..
20 SKEWERS OF THAT OVER THERE, 10 FRIED SHRIMPS, 10 FRIED CHICKEN AND THE FRIED FOOD OVER THERE TOO.
A PLATE OF FRIED EGG ROLLS AND SASHIMI, 5 FRIED RICE BALLS, A SLICE OF PIZZA AND SALAD... NO, MAKE IT 2 SLICES!
Ah, chicken wings too please.
WHAT AMAZING APPETITE.
WOW

魔王級
SPEAKING OF WHAT WE LIKE, IT IS THIS, RIGHT!!?
SFX: RAM
NOTE: DEMON KING CLASS
SHICHIKAGE -SAN!
LET ME POUR YOU A GLASS.
As thanks for today!
?

MIYA-SAMA, PLEASE HELP YOURSELF TO SOME BONELESS CHICKEN
IS THAT SPICY?
It's fine!
ENISHI, PLEASE HAVE ANOTHER GLASS
THANK YOU, OJOU
DIRECTOR.. WHY DO I GET JUICE?
I'm a shiki ganai too
NO WAY <3

ONE MORE! BRING ONE MORE BOTTLE!
1 HOUR LATER
SFX: LAUGHTER AND SCREAMS

NE-NE-KO...
I can't hear you say thanks!
Hey hey
Don't call me Min...
Can't drink on cake.
Is it okay to not stop them?
HEY, HEY, OLD MAN! DRINK, DRINK!

SFX: GULP DOWN

SFX: FLIP

SFX: HUG

SFX: DUMBSTRUCK

EHH!?
STAY LIKE THAT FOREVER! DON'T GROW UP! STAY UNDERAGE FOREVER!!
THAT'S GREAT, FIFTEEN! BURSTING WITH ADOLESCENCE: 15!
FIFTEEN!!
わあああああああ

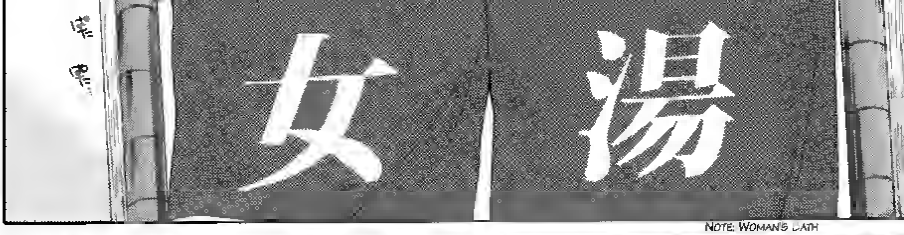
SFX: CRY

RATHER...
WHAT WAS THAT!?
THE DIRECTOR LIKES KIDS... RATHER, PEOPLE CONSIDERABLY UNDERAGE.
UAHAHA! MY BAD.
You're being targeted huh?
Cute
EEK!?
NENEKO-CHAN'S CHEST IS QUITE BIG, ISN'T IT?

SFX SOFT

SFX GULP

SFX TURN AWAY
SFX STARE
SFX SLUMP
SFX SHOCK
OH MY?
Did I grope her too much?
!!
SOUNOICHI-SAN...
NENEKO-CHAN? YOU OKAY?
IT LOOKS LIKE SHE TOTALLY HATES ME NOW.
IT CAN'T BE HELPED, HUH? IT'S MY FAULT THAT IT TURNED INTO SOMETHING SO AWFUL.
SFX GLOOM



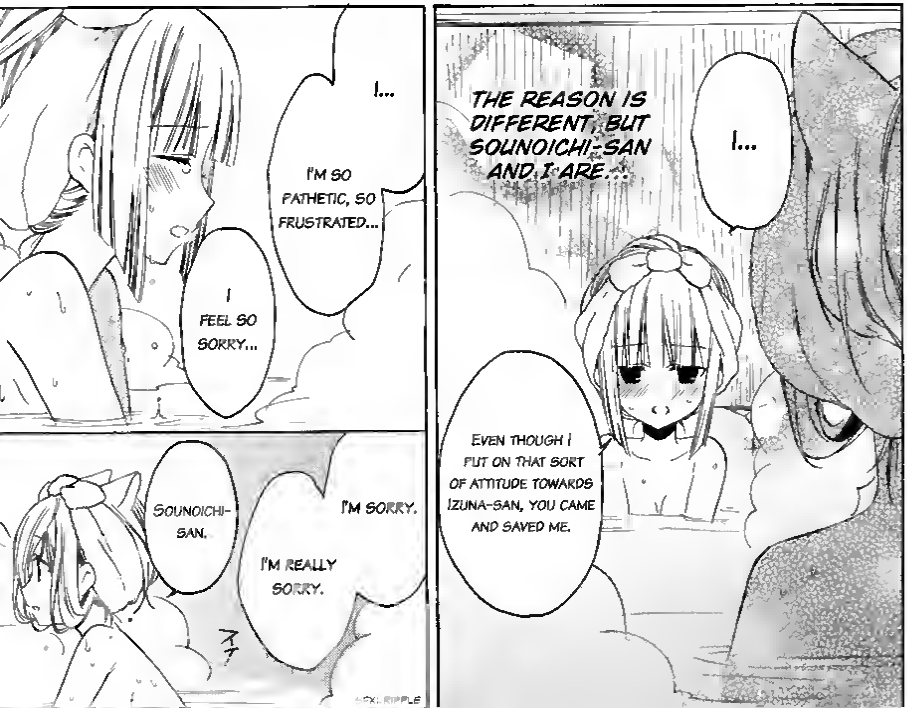
NOTE: WOMAN'S BATH

SFX: SPLASH

SFX: SPLASH
SFX: SLOSH
BUT IT SEEMS THE WOUND IS MOSTLY CLOSED.
IT STINGS
THAT'S RIGHT. I WAS CUT BY THE SWORD.
HUH?
2ND BATH
SFX: SLOSH
.....
WAH!?
SFX: SPLASH

SORRY!!
EHH!?
SFX: SPLASH
WA-
WAIT!!
トトトトト
I'LL GO OUT RIGHT AWAY!!
SFX: SPLAH
H-HM...
ERR...
EH?
EH?
EXTREME FEAR OF STRANGERS?

Even something natural and basic like how to deal with people is difficult for her.
She takes on a cold attitude to deceive others and then runs away.
So that's it.
And that has been a negative influence on Miya-sama.
She was raised while having everything arranged for her by her parents, from people to things.
SFX: LEAN


I...
I'm so pathetic, so frustrated...
I feel so sorry...
Sounoichi-san.
I'm sorry.
I'm really sorry.
SFX: RIPPLE
The reason is different, but Sounoichi-san and I are...
I...
Even though I put on that sort of attitude towards Izuna-san, you came and saved me.

SFX: SPLASH
I'LL BE YOUR SERVANT!
I'LL DO ANYTHING TO MAKE IT UP TO YOU!
IS IZUNA-SAN AN ANGEL!?
YOU'RE FORGIVING ME!?
HM... THAT'S A BIT...
I'M GLAD THAT SOUNOICHI-SAN WASN'T HURT.
I DON'T MIND AT ALL.
I WANT YOU TO BE...
MY FRIEND.
HMM...
THEN,
I'M HAPPY THAT WE HAVE SOMETHING IN COMMON.
IN THAT WE ARE BOTH NOT VERY GOOD AT DEALING WITH PEOPLE.
SOUNOICHI-SAN AND I ARE SOMEWHAT ALIKE

I'M SO...
AH!
YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO HAVE SOMETHING SO NEGATIVE IN COMMON, WOULD YOU!?
SFX: BIG SPLASH
AHH!?
SFX: STEP
ONCE SHE OPENS HER HEART...
I SAID THAT SHE REACTS LIKE SHE'S SCARED OF PEOPLE, BUT IT'S THE OPPOSITE.
YEAH, BUT...

SFX: CLOSE
SHE BECOMES ALL MUSHY.
ERR... THANKS FOR WAITING.
ベったり

SFX: HIDE BEHIND
SHE'S GOTTEN REALLY ATTACHED, HASN'T SHE, NENEKO-SAMA?
HOW DID I CAN I TUG YOU TOO
NO
HM. BUT...
YOU MADE UP WITH HER, HAVEN'T YOU, MIYA-SAMA?
RATHER, WHAT'S WITH NENEKO-SAN'S CLOTHES?
THE PROMISE WITH SHICHIKAGE TONIGHT...
HM, PERFECT.
THANKS, MIYA-CHAN.
NEKO-CHAN IS VERY CUTE!

I'VE... MADE A FRIEND!
SHICHIKAGE-SAN! PLEASE MAKE THIS COSTUME FOR MIYA-SAMA TOO!
THEN, PLEASE TELL ME HER THREE SIZES.
MIYA-SAMA! PLEASE TELL ME YOUR THREE SI-
I'LL KILL YOU, SHINGETSU.